

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-04 PPT-01 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SS-15

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R 140920Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2386

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOGADISCIO 1674

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (LIGHT, DAVID) PBOR

SUBJECT: LIGHT CASE: BRIEFING AMERICANS ON SOMALI BORDER
SENSITIVITY

1. MOFA CHIEF OF PROTOCOL HANDED ME NOTE NOVEMBER 14
CONFIRMING RELEASE OF DAVID LIGHT AND STATING THAT GSDR
RELEASED DAVID LIGHT "TO SHOW ITS GOOD WILL TOWARDS
IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS OF TWO COUNTRIES", ALTHOUGH
"HE HAD TRANSGRESSED LAWS OF THIS COUNTRY INTENTIONALLY".
NOTE ADDS THAT GSDR "WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY FURTHER
TRANSGRESSION AND SUCH ACTION AS THAT COMMITTED BY"
LIGHT.

2. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL HAMMERED AWAY AT THESE POINTS
AT SOME LENGTH SAYING THAT SOMALI INVESTIGATION SHOWED
CONCLUSIVELY THAT LIGHT CAME INTO SOMALIA DELIBERATELY.
PROTOCOL STATED IN GENERAL TERMS THAT US CITIZENS
SOMETIMES MIGHT BE WORKING FOR A THIRD GOVERNMENT.
HE STATED IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION THAT GSDR WOULD
CONSIDER ANY FUTURE INCIDENTS ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.
HOWEVER, HE ASKED USG TO WARN ALL ITS CITIZENS WORKING
IN BORDER AREAS OF SERIOUS VIEW GSDR TAKES OF BORDER
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INFRACTIONS AND BORDER BIOLATIONS. INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS

SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE ALLOWED TO PUT UNNECESSARY DIFFICULTIES IN WAY OF GOOD US-SOMALI RELATIONS.

3. I STRESSED INNOCENT AND OPEN NATURE OF LIGHT'S VIOLATION OF BORDER, OUR INTEREST IN WELFARE IN ALL OUR CITIZENS AND OUR GREAT CONCERN AT LACK OF CONSULAR ACCESS. I SAID USG DID NOT RPT NOT WANT ITS CITIZENS TO VIOLATE SOMALI BORDERS AND SAID I WOULD URGE THAT SPECIAL EFFORTS BE MADE TO INFORM US CITIZENS IN BORDER AREAS OF NEED TO STAY CLEAR OF SOMALI TERRITORY.

4. DEBRIEFING LIGHT, WE WERE STRUCK BY HIS STATEMENT THAT HE WAS TOTALLY IGNORANT OF ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI BORDER PROBLEMS WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED BY SOMALIS ON SEPTEMBER 24. HE TOLD US THAT HAD HE KNOWN SOMETHING OF HISTORY OF PROBLEM, AS WELL AS EXTENT OF SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN ANIMOSITIES, HE WOULDN'T HAVE VENTURED NEAR BORDER.

5. WE WOULD URGE EMBASSIES ADDIS AND NAIROBI TO AGAIN STRESS TO US BUSINESS FIRMS WHOSE EMPLOYEES MIGHT HAVE OCCASION TO VISIT ETHIOPIAN/SOMALI BORDER REGIONS HOW SENSITIVE SOMALIS ARE TO ANY BORDER VIOLATIONS.
KIRK

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